

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A control unit for a system having a plurality of ~~activatable modules~~ for generating information as a function of at least one of a plurality of states of the system, comprising:

cl a first storage device for storing information relating to a mutual interference of the modules;

 a second storage device for storing state information regarding the modules, the state information indicating which of the modules are currently activated; and

 a scheduler for activating at least one of the modules and determining as a function of the information stored in the first storage device and the state information stored in the second storage device whether the mutual interference occurs if an additional module is activated, wherein the scheduler prevents a simultaneous activation of modules that interfere with each other.

2. (Original) The control unit according to claim 1, wherein the system includes one of a motor vehicle, an engine, and a transmission.

3. (Original) The control unit according to claim 1, wherein the scheduler prevents the simultaneous activation of modules that interfere with each other by preventing an activation of the additional module.

4. (Original) The control unit according to claim 1, wherein the scheduler prevents the simultaneous activation of modules that interfere with each other by interrupting an activated module and activating the additional module after the activated module is interrupted.

5. (Original) The control unit according to claim 1, wherein the first storage device stores information regarding which modules interfere with one another when they are simultaneously activated.

6. (Original) The control unit according to claim 1, wherein the first storage device stores information regarding which states of the system correspond to which activated modules and which states of the system are interfered with by which activated modules.

7. (Original) The control unit according to claim 1, wherein each one of the modules and the scheduler includes a program to be processed by a microprocessor.

c/ 8. (Original) The control unit according to claim 1, wherein each one of the first storage device and the second storage device includes one of a plurality of tables and a plurality of matrices.

9. (Original) The control unit according to claim 1, wherein one of a set of functions appearing to a user as one unit and another set of functions being used to control a uniform function is divided into the modules and are managed separately by the scheduler.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a control unit of a system for activating at least one of a plurality of modules in order to generate information regarding at least one of a plurality of states of the system, comprising the steps of:

providing a first storage device for storing information relating to a mutual interference of the modules;

providing a second storage device storing state information regarding the modules, the state information indicating which of the modules are currently activated;

before an activation of an additional module is performed, determining as a function of the information stored in the first storage device and the state information stored in the second storage device whether the mutual interference occurs if the additional module is activated; and

preventing a simultaneous activation of modules that interfere with each other.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the system includes one of a motor vehicle, an engine and a transmission.

Appl. No. 09/118,234

Reply to Office Action of January 29, 2004

12. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the step of preventing the simultaneous activation of modules that interfere with each other includes the step of preventing an activation of the additional module.

cl 13. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the step of preventing the simultaneous activation of modules that interfere with each other includes the steps of interrupting an activated module and activating the additional module after the activated module is interrupted.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein the steps of the method are executed by a program to be processed by a microprocessor.
